



Office of the Great Lakes

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor • Steven E. Chester, Director

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

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The [Office of the Great Lakes \(OGL\)](#) was established in 1985 in recognition of the special relationship Michigan has to the Great Lakes. The OGL is the one place in state government that thinks about the Great Lakes first. These lakes are vitally important to the people of Michigan and need strong protection and wise management. The ecology and economy of Michigan depend on the Great Lakes, and the activities of the OGL reflect the state's commitment to protecting, improving, and preserving this resource. The Great Lakes Protection Act established the OGL as the lead agency within state government to develop policies and programs to protect, enhance, and manage the Great Lakes.

Great Lakes Programs

Michigan has many Great Lakes programs in place in various state agencies. The mandate of the OGL is to coordinate the total state program and to be a catalyst for new ideas and approaches. The OGL acknowledges Michigan's unique position in the Great Lakes Basin and advocates the interests of the lakes in our state and the region and in national and binational forums. The director of the OGL represents the state of Michigan on matters before the International Joint Commission and is the Governor's liaison to the U.S. and Canadian governments on matters regarding the Great Lakes. The director has been appointed one of Michigan's delegates to the Great Lakes Commission. He is a member of the board of the regional Great Lakes Protection Fund. In addition, he chairs Michigan's Aquatic Nuisance Species Council and has been appointed as the Lake St. Clair Coordinator.

The Office Director of the OGL advises the Department of Environmental Quality Director and all other state department directors on Great Lakes issues. These issues include diversions of water under the Great Lakes Charter; reduction efforts for persistent, bioaccumulative toxic substances under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada; the introduction of aquatic invasive species into the Great Lakes ecosystem; ports and water transportation; and tourism. The OGL serves as a source of information providing technical and policy support on Great Lakes issues and programs for the Governor's office, the Legislature, other state departments, the media, and the general public.

Specific Activities:

- coordinating diversion and consumptive use reviews under the Great Lakes Charter;
- implementing grants under the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund. The OGL has awarded grants under this program to promote Great Lakes research;
- administering the Aquatic Invasive Species Information and Education Small Grants Program, which was funded by the Great Lakes Protection Fund decal program;
- coordinating Michigan's Aquatic Nuisance Species Council;
- implementing the state's comprehensive aquatic invasive species control plan, as developed pursuant to the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention and Control Act of 1990, Public Law 101-646;
- staffing Michigan's participation on the working group of the lakewide management plan under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;

DEQ Internet Home Page:
www.michigan.gov/deqogl
Environmental Assistance Center:
800-662-9278
Pollution Emergencies:
800-292-4706

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- sponsoring Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness week;
- preparing an annual State of the Great Lakes report and quarterly activity reports focusing on efforts underway to restore, protect, and preserve the Great Lakes ecosystem;
- coordinating ballast water reporting pursuant to Section 3103 of the NREPA, 1994 PA 451 (PA 114 of 2001).

Michigan's Aquatic Nuisance Species Council

Established by Executive Order in 2002, the Council is administered by the OGL and consists of representatives of the Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Transportation, as well as four members representing stakeholder groups. The Council is charged with coordinating implementation of Michigan's management plan to prevent and control [aquatic nuisance species](#) in the state.

Michigan's Invasive Species Advisory Council

Established by legislation in 2005, the council prepares an annual report on invasive species in Michigan, recommends additions to the list of prohibited invasive species, and oversees implementation of an invasive species fund. The council consists of the departments of Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Agriculture. The Office of the Great Lakes staffs the council for the Department of Environmental Quality.

Publications

Call the OGL at 517-335-4056 or visit the OGL website at www.michigan.gov/deqgreatlakes to obtain the following publications or to be put on the mailing list:

- [State of the Great Lakes Annual Report](#)**

This report is prepared annually and covers topics of concern regarding the Great Lakes and general environmental issues.

- [Michigan's Aquatic Nuisance Species State Management Plan](#)**

This plan addresses control of harmful, invasive species such as the sea lamprey, zebra mussel, Eurasian Ruffe, and others.

- Please Help Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species** plants and animals boat launch signs
- Protect Your Waters** brochure
- Aquatic Invasive Species** watch cards